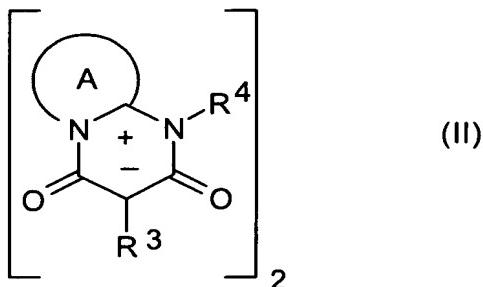
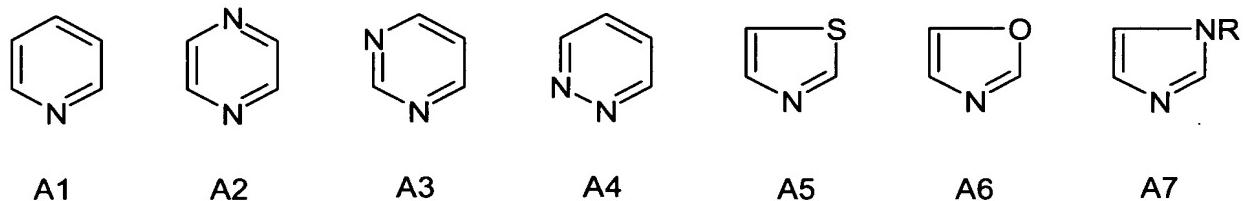


Amendments to the Claims:

- 1) (Currently Amended) A dimeric compound of formula (II)



where the two monomeric units are linked either via R<sup>3</sup> or via R<sup>4</sup>;  
the ring A is a five- or six-membered heteroaromatic ring of structure A1 to A7



where the rings A1 to A7 are unsubstituted, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl or phenyl substituted and/or fused with a benzene ring or a combination thereof,

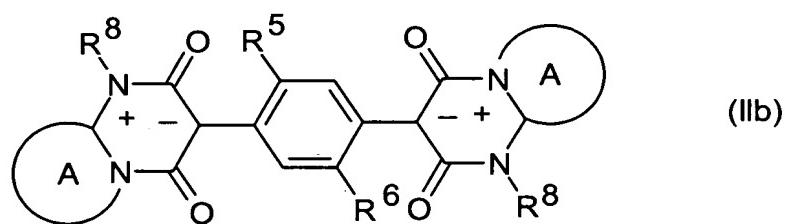
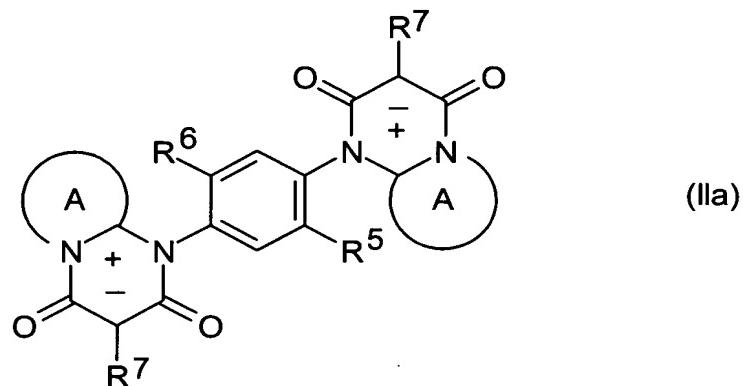
one of R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> is an unsubstituted phenylene radical or a phenylene radical substituted by one or more of alkyl-, alkoxy- and/or or halogen-substituted phenylene radical substitutions,

the other one of R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-cycloalkyl, an unsubstituted phenyl, a phenyl substituted by one or more of alkyl-, alkoxy-, nitro-, phenyl-, alkoxycarbonyl-, dialkylamino-, dialkylaminocarbonyl-, alkylaminocarbonyl-, aminocarbonyl- and/or or halogen-substituted phenylsubstitutions, benzyl, benzanilide, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-cycloalkyl or naphthyl;

or where the NR<sup>4</sup> group may combine combines with the A ring to form a 5- or 6-membered heterocycle which may be additionally optionally fused with a benzene ring, and R<sup>3</sup> is an unsubstituted phenylene or a phenylene substituted by one or

more of alkyl-, alkoxy- and/or or halogen-substituted phenylene radical substitutions; and R is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl or phenyl.

2) (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, characterized by the general wherein formula (II) is of the formulae (IIa) and/or (IIb)



where

R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are independently hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy or halogen;

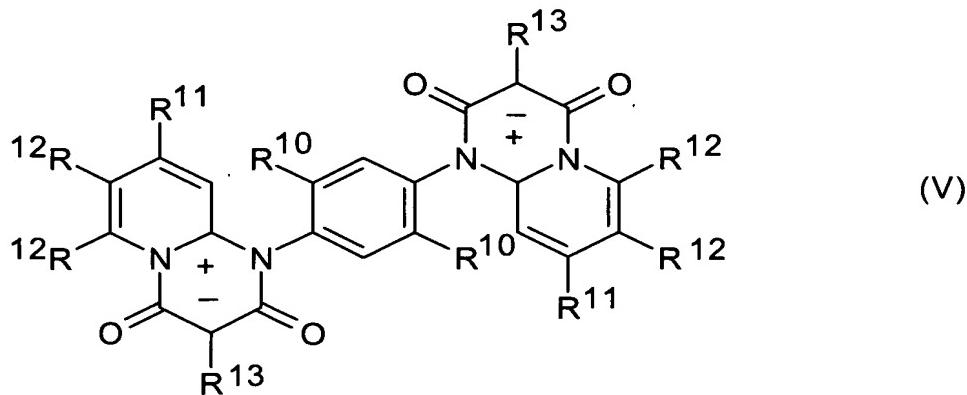
R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> are C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-cycloalkyl, a phenyl, benzyl, benzanilide or naphthyl that is unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 radicals selected from the group consisting of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy, nitro, phenyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl, di(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>-alkyl)amino, di(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>-alkyl)aminocarbonyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>-alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminocarbonyl and/or and chlorine;

or where the NR<sup>8</sup> group combines with the A ring to form a 5- or 6-membered heterocycle which may be additionally optionally fused with a benzene ring.

3) (Original) A compound according to claim 2, wherein R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are the same or different and are each hydrogen, methyl or chlorine.

4) (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~one or more of claims 1 to 3~~  
claim 1, wherein R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> is a substituted phenyl radical selected from the group consisting of 1-, 2-, 3-methyl-, ethyl-, methoxy-, ethoxy-, diethylamino-, chloro-, 2,5-dichloro-, 3-chloro-4-methyl-, 3-chloro-4-methoxy- and 4-nitrophenyl.

5) (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to 4~~, characterized by claim 1, wherein formula (II) is of the formula (V)



where

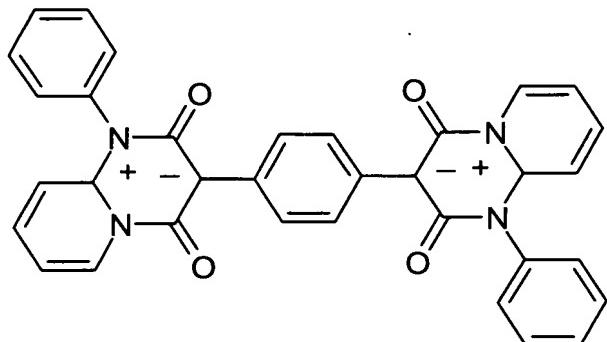
R<sup>10</sup> is hydrogen, methyl or chlorine,

R<sup>11</sup> is hydrogen or methyl,

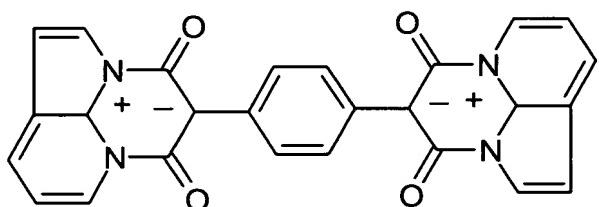
R<sup>12</sup> is hydrogen, or two adjacent R<sup>12</sup> radicals together are a divalent C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>4</sub> radical, and

R<sup>13</sup> is methyl or phenyl.

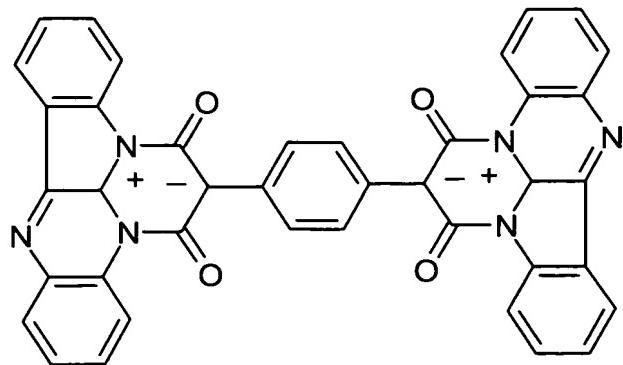
6) (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 or 2, characterized by the wherein formula (II) is of the formula (11), (12), (13) or (14)



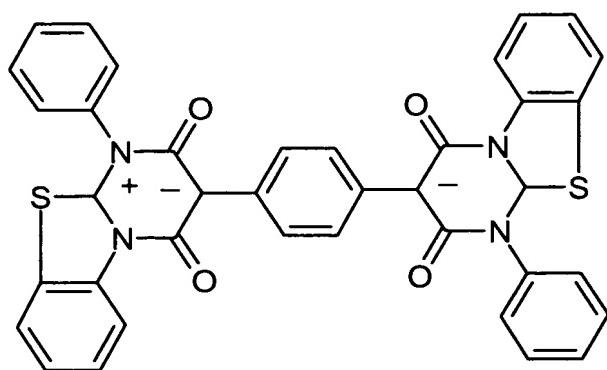
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12



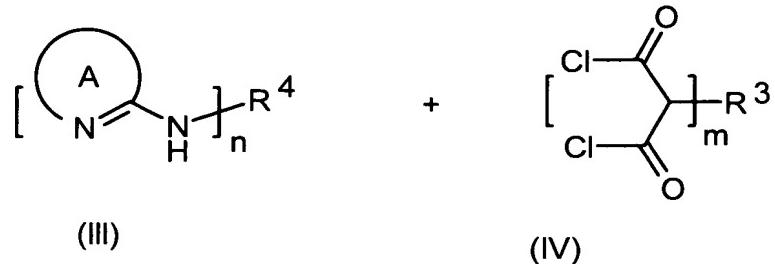
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7) (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound according to ~~one or more of claims 1 to 6, which comprises~~ claim 1, comprising the step of condensing either

- (a) one equivalent of the compound of formula (III) where n is 2 with about two equivalents of the compound of formula (IV) where m is 1; or
- (b) one equivalent of the compound of formula (IV) where m is 2 with about two equivalents of the compound of formula (III) where n is 1,



- 8) (Original) The process according to claim 7, wherein the condensing is effected in the presence of a base.

9) (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 7 or 8 wherein the compound of formula (II) is subjected to ~~a~~ at least one of fine-dividing operation and/or or solvent treatment.

10) (Currently Amended) ~~The use of a compound according to one or more of claims 1 to 6 for pigmenting A macromolecular organic materials material of natural or synthetic origin pigmented with a compound according to claim 1.~~

11) (Currently Amended) ~~The use according to claim 10 for pigmenting A composition pigmented by a compound according to claim 1, wherein the composition is selected from the group consisting of plastics, resins, coatings, paints, electrophotographic toners, and electrophotographic developers, electret materials, color filters, inks, including inkjet inks, and nonjettable printing inks, and seed.~~